

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 20 and 22 have been canceled. The rejection of Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is therefore believed to be moot.

Claim 12 has been amended to further recite that the holes in the first and second sheet of glass each have countersunk surfaces on each of their sides, and that the connecting pieces for each of the holes have conical surfaces that mate with the countersunk surfaces of the respective holes. Basis for this is believed to be evident from Figure 1.

Claims 12-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,540,514 (Demars et al). Additionally, Claims 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Demars et al in view of U.S. patent 6,131,346 (Kordes). Applicants wish to thank Examiners Vesra and Glessner for the courtesy of an interview on September 9, 2008, at which time these rejections were discussed. As a result of this discussion, it was agreed that amended Claim 12 defines over the cited prior art.

In particular, as was discussed during the interview, Demars et al closes a mechanical connection between a glazing element 18 and another glazing element 19 which acts as a supporting structure therefor. According to Demars et al, the glazing 19 is countersunk at one side only, and the glazing 18 is pressed against the ring 21 by a lock-nut 35 connected to the screw 20. Neither surface of the glazing 18 is countersunk, nor is the facing surface of the glazing 19, and so one skilled in the art would have had no reason to have provided first and second connecting pieces having conical surfaces that mate with the absent countersunk surfaces of the holes. It is therefore agreed that amended Claim 12 defines over Demars et al.

Kordes is similar to Demars et al, insofar as only one piece (23) is provided with a single conical surface that mates with a countersunk surface of a hole in a glazing. While the opposite side of the glazing 3 is beveled, the connecting piece 22 covering the bevel does not

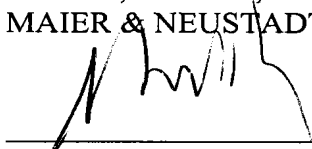
have a conical surface that mates therewith (see e.g., Figures 3-4). It is accordingly agreed that the amended claims define over the cited prior art.

Concerning the drawing objection, it was agreed during the interview that the amendment to Claim 21 overcomes the objection specified in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Concerning the objection specified in paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the specification has been amended to delete the reference numeral "16." The drawing objection is therefore believed to be moot.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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